

VZCZCXYZ0020
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHDO #0591 2320628
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 190628Z AUG 08
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8154
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0675
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS DOHA 000591

SIPDIS

AMMAN FOR ESTH HUB - MANU BHALLA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ENRG](#) [EPET](#) [TRGY](#) [QA](#)
SUBJECT: INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT AS ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT PROCEEDS AT BREAKNECK SPEED

(SBU) KEY POINTS

-- GOQ senior leadership is increasingly concerned about Qatar's carbon footprint.

-- ExxonMobil is undertaking several initiatives to reduce emissions from its massive liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects.

(SBU) COMMENTS

-- Qatar's exponential growth as an energy producer is placing increasing strain on the country's environment.

-- Environmental considerations will likely continue to take a back seat to Qatar's quest to become the global leader in LNG, although the GOQ is increasingly environmentally aware. For example, one of the four main pillars of "Qatar Vision 2030," a recently released strategy for the country's development, states that "economic development and protection of the environment are two demands neither of which should be sacrificed for the sake of the other." Moreover, in early July the GOQ established a full Ministry of the Environment, enhancing the role of the former Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves.

-- In an effort to boost its environmental credentials, Qatar intends to host several major upcoming international conferences on the environment, including the meeting of Montreal Protocol members in November and the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in 2010.

END KEY POINTS AND COMMENTS.

1. (SBU) ExxonMobil Qatar President and CEO Alex Dodds told the Ambassador during an August 14 introductory call that his company is undertaking a number of initiatives to minimize the environmental effect of its massive LNG projects in Qatar. Dodds explained that the Amir and his consort, Sheikha Mozah, are strongly committed to reducing Qatar's carbon footprint and embarrassed that Qatar has one of the highest CO2 emissions per capita in the world. Dodds mentioned several specific ExxonMobil environmental projects.

2. (SBU) The company is working to recover excess gas that is now flared when gas is moved from tankers to transport ships. A project at Ras Laffan Industrial City (RLIC) will capture vaporizing gas and reinject it into the liquefaction process. Dodds said recovery is not a technical challenge, just a matter of new pipework "which should have been installed in

the first place."

¶3. (SBU) For power generation, the new LNG mega-trains will use special GE gas turbines equipped with "Dry Low NOx" combustion systems which are designed to reduce emissions.

¶4. (SBU) ExxonMobil and other companies operating at RLIC are starting to use specialized equipment to identify "fugitive emissions" or small leaks in the pipework which contribute to pollution levels.

¶5. (SBU) The company is planning to install new technologies to reduce emissions at Mesaieed Industrial City, the downstream processing point south of Doha which is used for energy-related ventures.

¶6. (SBU) ExxonMobil is establishing a USD 25-30 million research center at Qatar's new Science and Technology park at Education City. The company will be an anchor tenant and conduct research on environmental, safety, and sulfur management. According to ExxonMobil, potential research areas will include "refinement and application of human factors in LNG plants, novel sulfur management techniques, and cost effective technologies to manage water use and discharge in an environmentally acceptable manner." Its first research project is a USD 2 million study on the potential formation and impact of chlorination by-products due to the discharge of cooling seawater near RLIC.

LeBaron